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The C.I.A.

Dulles' Retention Offers Scant Hope of Improvement In Intelligence Record

Hope that Mr. Kennedy will lose no time in shoring up the State Department — the one arm of Government most people believe to be in need of it — has been dimmed by his apparent approval of the make-up and performance of the Central Intelligence Agency, which has given evidence of being the weakest link in our foreign service.

Reference has been made heretofore in these columns to some of the more glaring and quite recent evidences of intelligence failure. Business Trends points out some others. To quote:

"Just how good is U. S. military and diplomatic intelligence? In the light of some recent experience Congressmen are beginning to wonder:

"Wyoming's Democratic Senator Gale McGee, preparing to leave for a fact-finding trip to Africa, was warned by Air Force Intelligence that Sabena Belgian Airlines was no longer flying to Leopoldville and the ferry to Brazzaville had been burned.

"McGee went ahead anyway and found both services functioning regularly.

"Two of McGee's colleagues, Idaho's Frank Church and Utah's Frank Moss, were

told by briefing officers in Addis Ababa: 'Here's one place in Africa where you can relax.'

"Just after they left Ethiopia's revolt broke out."

Add these experiences to Mr. Harter's admission that had his Department known about conditions in Japan we would have called off President Eisenhower's visit ourselves instead of waiting for the Japanese Government to do so; the warmth with which official Washington greeted Castro's revolution as a great movement of liberation for the people of Cuba; and the apparent unawareness in official circles of the extent of Communist penetration in Latin America, and the conclusion is inescapable that the United States Government just doesn't know what's going on in the world.

Yet Mr. Kennedy has retained Allen Dulles as head of the Central Intelligence Agency and apparently entertains the highest regard for his direction of that agency and its performance under him.

In view of this appointment can we expect any improvement in the quality of American intelligence?